

## Are You Resource Conservation Challenged?

For the first time, South Carolina agency energy professionals and recycling coordinators met to exchange ideas and share valuable information.

Sponsored by the SC Energy Office, SC Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council, SC Department of Corrections, DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the US Environmental Protection Agency WasteWise Program, and the SC Soft Drink Association, the Resource Conservation Challenge gave agencies the opportunity to share their resource and money saving programs with other agencies.

The South Carolina Resource Conservation Challenge is about new and improved ways for state agencies, colleges and universities, schools and school districts to conserve natural resources, protect the environment - and perhaps save money in the process.

The Challenge, which is modeled after the US Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation Challenge, and customized for South Carolina, can be met in a variety of ways. Those ways include beginning, improving and implementing programs on waste reduction, recycling, sustainable development and energy conservation.

To that end sponsors offered presentations on their various resource- and money-saving programs.

Karen Owens ([kowens@commerce.state.sc.us](mailto:kowens@commerce.state.sc.us)) of the SC Department of Commerce spoke on how businesses can start a waste reduction program.

Members of the SC Energy Office ([energy@ogs.state.sc.us](mailto:energy@ogs.state.sc.us)) presented information on the ConserFund loan program, The Other 5% Program, and the requirement of all state agencies to report their energy consumption data to the SCEO.

Les Sweigart ([sweigart.les@doc.state.sc.us](mailto:sweigart.les@doc.state.sc.us)) of the SC Department of Corrections promoted the agency's solid waste collection services for state agencies.

And John Stevens ([jstevens@mimo.state.sc.us](mailto:jstevens@mimo.state.sc.us)) of the State Budget and Control Board's Materials Management Office reminded the audience of the importance of buying recycled products and of available state contracts.

For more information on the SC Resource Conservation Challenge, contact Karen Owens of the SC Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council at (803) 737-0239.

## Members of SCEO staff are "Best of the Best"

A team of individuals from the South Carolina Energy Office and the State Engineer's Office were recent recipients of the Budget & Control Board's quarterly "Best of the Best Program" award for their work in reviewing, administering, managing, and marketing the Energy Office's ConserFund loan program.

This loan program provides funds for energy efficiency projects for state agencies and school districts. Since September 2002, the team of Rick Baldauf, Jim Allen, Karen Hudson and Tom Hudkins has committed just under 2 million dollars in loans to public agencies for projects that will help those agencies save \$4 million on their energy bills.



The team's composition is innovative in that it crosses typical inter-office boundaries, being that Jim works in the State Engineer's Office. This arrangement provides for speedy technical reviews, which helps speed up the entire loan process.

Frank Fusco, Executive Director of the Budget and Control Board, congratulates Karen Hudson, Rick Baldauf, and Tom Hudkins of the SC Energy Office, as well as Jim Allen of the State Engineer's Office.

The "Best of the Best Program" is a Board-wide system for recognizing employees for exceptional performance and commitment to state service.

The purpose is to:

- Motivate employees to achieve exceptional performance and to improve employee morale.
- Continuously and systematically recognize and reward employees and teams for exceptional performance in demonstrating the Board's values.
- Make available financial and non-financial rewards to individuals and teams of employees based on exceptional performance.
- Recognize and reward commitment to state service.